**Comparison of Québec and Washington Linkage Steps**

| **Step** | **Québec** | **Washington** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Initial Policy Foundations** (Join collaborative initiative like WCI) | **Completed:** April 2008 Source: <http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/> | **Completed:** Washington’s Climate Commitment Act (2021) provides linkage authority. Source: https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5126-S2.SL.pdf |
| **Program Design and Rule Development** (Drafting regulations aligned with WCI design) | **Completed:** 2009–2011 Source: http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/changements/carbone/ | **Completed:** 2021–2023, Washington developed and finalized cap-and-invest rules. Source: https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Climate-change/Reducing-greenhouse-gases/Climate-Commitment-Act |
| **Regulatory Adoption & Launch of Domestic Program** (Implementing the cap-and-trade system domestically) | **Completed:** January 1, 2012 Source: http://www2.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/dynamicSearch/telecharge.php?type=3&file=/Q\_2/Q2R46\_A.HTM | **Completed:** January 2023 (initial auctions began) Source: https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Climate-change/Reducing-greenhouse-gases/Climate-Commitment-Act/Cap-and-invest-auctions |
| **Public Consultations & Feasibility Assessments for Linkage** (Joint reports, stakeholder engagement on linkage) | **Completed:** July 30, 2012 (Joint Staff Report) Source: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/classic//cc/capandtrade/linkage/ghgcombofsr.pdf | **Not Completed:** No dedicated public consultation or feasibility study for linkage released as of 2023. |
| **Regulatory Amendments and Agreements** (Formal agreements/MOUs on linkage terms) | **Completed:** September 27, 2013 (Québec & California sign agreement) Source: http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/changements/carbone/californie-en.htm | **Not Completed:** No formal negotiations or agreements on linkage terms with California/Québec have been announced. |
| **Formal Implementation of Linkage** (Linkage start date and operational joint auctions) | **Completed:** January 1, 2014 (Linkage effective); November 25, 2014 (First joint auction) Source: https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auction/auction.htm | **Not Completed:** No linkage start date, joint auctions, or operational framework in place for Washington. |

**Summary Points**

* Québec took about 1–2 years after implementing its own cap-and-trade program to fully link with California.
* Québec established a strong foundation, engaged in public consultations, released a joint feasibility report, and then entered into formal agreements before linkage occurred.
* Washington has completed its foundational steps (legislation, rulemaking, initial auctions) but has not yet begun public consultations, negotiations, or feasibility assessments dedicated to linkage.
* If Washington follows a similar process and timeline to Québec, linkage might occur a few years after the state’s cap-and-invest program becomes fully operational and stable.

**Additional Resources for Current Information**

* **Washington State Department of Ecology (Cap-and-Invest Program Page):**  
  https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Climate-change/Reducing-greenhouse-gases/Climate-Commitment-Act
* **California Air Resources Board (CARB) Cap-and-Trade Program Updates:**  
  https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/cap-and-trade-program
* **Québec Government (Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change) Carbon Market Information:**  
  http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/changements/carbone/index-en.htm
* **Western Climate Initiative (WCI) Documentation and Background:**  
  <http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/>

Regularly visiting these sources and reviewing their news releases, announcements, and rulemaking dockets can provide the most up-to-date information as discussions evolve and new steps toward linkage are taken.